

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Watershed Assessments

Goal Statement 1

Prioritization Criteria 2

Organization 3

Regulatory 4

Programmatic 5

Capital Improvement 6

Potential Partners 7

GOAL STATEMENT

The Watershed Working Group is comprised of Story County staff and elected officials whose responsibilities include elements related to water quality. The Countywide Watershed Assessment Report (Emmons & Olivier Resources August 2018) establishes the County's water quality baseline. The Watershed Working Group is a mechanism for these individuals to:

- Communicate current and planned efforts,
- Identify gaps,
- Coordinate joint efforts, and
- Communicate overall County efforts and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Departments are charged with the Watershed Assessment Implementation Matrix efforts through their individual work plans and budgets. The Watershed Working Group acts as a catalyst for completion of those efforts, updating the Matrix annually. Updates to the Watershed Assessment and Implementation Matrix shall be included in the Annual Review of the Story County Comprehensive Plan 2036 Cornerstone to Capstone.

The Watershed Assessment Implementation Matrix is adopted as a component of the Cornerstone to Capstone (C2C) Plan Implementation Matrix.



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Priorities are identified based on the following criteria:

Low Priority

- Steps for which previous efforts have been made or slowed
- Steps outside the County's ability to affect
- Long time frame (6-10 years)

Medium Priority

- Steps necessary for impactful water quality or flood mitigations improvements but not required for subsequent action step implementation
- Secondary actions that will benefit from high priority work items when completed
- Medium time frame (3-5 years)

High Priority

- Project is underway
- Other items rely on the step – it sets groundwork and is necessary to implement subsequent steps
- Step will provide measurable results
- Steps addresses known areas of great significant concerns and will have county-wide outcomes
- May be classified as Immediate time frame (0-2 years) or Medium time frame (3-5 years)



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Projects/Action Steps are categorized into three areas:

- Regulatory
- Programmatic
- Capital Improvement

Associated with each Action Step is an assigned Priority, Responsible Party, Estimated Budget Amount, Identifiable Funding Source and Notes.

While the Watershed Assessment Implementation Matrix is considered a component of the C2C Plan, it is anticipated that the Working Group will meet at least quarterly (or more often as needed) to review Action Steps and provide update and bring forward modifications as necessary. These will then be built into the Annual Review of the C2C Plan.



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Action Step		Priority	Responsible Party	Identifiable Funding Source Yes/No
1.1	Adopt and implement stormwater ordinance	High	Board of Supervisors Planning and Development	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i>		ITEM IS COMPLETED.		
1.2	Floodplain ordinance modification	High/Ongoing	Planning and Development Board of Supervisors	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i>		Floodplain regulations were updated in late 2019 and became effective January 2020, While the prohibition of incompatible uses, was not added, restrictions for soils and increased freeboard were built into the revised regulations.		
1.3	Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Regulations	Medium	Planning and Development	N/A
<i>April 2022 Update</i>		Action Step added April 2022 a. Streamline development permitting processes (especially erosion control and stormwater management), engage the development community, and develop legitimacy for new ordinances and policies. b. Develop and implement consistent enforcement strategies and tactics.		



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Action Step		Priority	Responsible Party	Identifiable Funding Source Yes/No
2.1	Convene a water quality working group (WAWG)	Ongoing	Board of Supervisors Story County Conservation Board Story County Board of Health	NA
<i>April 2022 Update</i>		THIS IS AN ONGOING PRIORITY		
2.2	Develop Riparian Area Action Plan or acquire/protect critical riparian areas	High	Board of Supervisors Story County Conservation Board Planning and Development	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Modify from a Medium Priority to a High Priority Item</i>		a. Investigate means to establish vegetated buffers on streams and lakes and implement as appropriate. b. Review current Land Development Regulations specifically Chapter 88 General Site Planning Standards) to see how they support or hinder the implementation of the watershed assessments.		
2.3	Develop Wetland Mitigation Bank or acquire/protect critical wetlands	High	Board of Supervisors Story County Conservation Board Planning and Development	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Modify from a Medium Priority to a High Priority Item</i>		a. Investigate the economic feasibility of developing a commercial mitigation bank as a means for financing wetland restoration projects. b. Prioritize wetland restoration sites using the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) tool. c. Work to identify willing landowners and funding partners. d. Review current Land Development Regulations (specifically Chapter 88 General Site Planning Standards) to see how they support or hinder the implementation of the watershed assessments and consider adopting protective measures. e. Map wetlands.		



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	Action Step	Priority	Responsible Party	Identifiable Funding Source Yes/No
2.4	Develop Stream Mitigation Bank or stabilize critical streambanks and buffers	High	Board of Supervisors Story County Conservation Board	Yes
	<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Modify from a Medium Priority to a High Priority Item</i>		a. Investigate the economic feasibility of developing a commercial mitigation bank as a means for financing streambank restoration projects. b. Prioritize Streambank Erosion Sites c. Work to identify willing landowners and funding partners.	
2.5	Protect native prairie remnants	High/ Ongoing	Board of Supervisors Story County Conservation Board Planning and Development	Yes
	<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Modify from a Medium Priority to a High/Ongoing Priority Item</i>		a. Consider rezoning or other protective measures in the Chapter 88 General Site Planning Standards. b. Identify prairie remnants.	
2.6	Sensitive Environmental Areas enhancement and protection program	High	Board of Supervisors Story County Conservation Board Planning and Development	Yes
	<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Modify from a Medium Priority to a High/Ongoing Priority Item</i>		a. Develop an assistance program for willing landowners. b. Protect parcels with willing landowners c. Consider rezoning identified lands to the GB-C Greenbelt Conservation Zone District, with willing landowners.	
2.7	Nutrient Reduction and Bacteria Reduction Practice Implementation	High/ Ongoing	Board of Supervisors Story County Conservation Board	Yes
	<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Modify from a Medium Priority to a High/Ongoing Priority Item</i>		a. Research and inventory cost share programs to determine availability and ability to leverage funds. b. Develop a cost share program for conservation practices based on nutrient reduction effectiveness (\$/lbs. system).	



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Action Step		Priority	Responsible Party	Identifiable Funding Source Yes/No
2.8	Nutrient Reduction and Bacteria Reduction Outreach	High	Story County Conservation Board	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Action Step added April 2022</i>		a. Educate and engage agricultural producers in using conservation practices in farming and livestock production. b. Educate and engage residents in methods to reduce bacteria and nutrients entering water resources.		
2.9	Drainage District Operational Guidance	Medium/Ongoing	Drainage District Trustees	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Modify from a Medium Priority to a Medium/Ongoing Priority Item</i>		a. Review current procedures and recommendation from Watershed Assessment. b. As available, share best practices and related materials with Drainage District Trustees and the general public. c. Pilot projects for drainage, i.e. Dotson Wetland Project, IDALS wetlands projects.		
2.10	Water Quality Monitoring	High/Ongoing	Story County Conservation Board	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Remove Environmental Health from Responsible Party</i> <i>Modify from a High Priority to a High/Ongoing Priority Item</i>		a. Convene a working group (e.g. staff, officials, stakeholders) to implement a comprehensive monitoring program according to EOR's recommendations (\$25,000 for Prairie Rivers RC&D Contract). b. Work with IIHR to establish Full Sentinel Site monitoring at locations along South Skunk River per watershed assessment Report. c. Continue establishment of General Sentinel Site monitoring at locations identified in watershed assessment. d. Consider initiating discussions with Iowa Flood Center for location of stream sensors.		



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2.11	Municipal Outreach	Medium	Board of Supervisors Planning and Development	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Remove Environmental Health from Responsible Party</i>		a. Partner with ISWEP for lunch and learn moments/opportunities for training the public and cities regarding modern stormwater management and erosion control. b. Work with State and Federal authorities and agencies to investigate ways to incorporate stormwater management in municipal infrastructure projects.		
2.12	WMA Collaboration	Ongoing	Board of Supervisors Story County Conservation Board	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Modify to an Ongoing Priority Item</i>		a. Work with existing Watershed Management Authorities (WMA) within the County on common goals. b. Support formation of new WMAs particularly within the South Skunk and East Indian Creek watersheds.		
2.13	Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Outreach	Medium/Ongoing	Board of Supervisors Story County Conservation Board Planning and Development	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Modified to note Action Step is the Outreach component (and added Action Step to Regulatory)</i>		a. Educate and engage residents and other stakeholders regarding the impacts of erosion and stormwater management. b. Partner with municipalities and WMA's to conduct outreach on green infrastructure designed to implement ordinances c. Outreach programs targeted to schools and homeowners.		



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2.14	Floodplain Management	High	Board of Supervisors Planning and Development	Yes
<p><i>April 2022 Update</i></p>		<p>a. Initiate staff discussions with County Attorney regarding interpretation and use of floodplain ordinance for conservation practices.</p> <p>b. Initiate high-level discussions with U.S. FEMA and Iowa DNR about federal and state interpretation of conservation practices in the floodplain.</p> <p>c. Educate and engage stakeholders regarding County's interpretation of floodplain ordinance.</p> <p>d. Continue to explore partnerships and opportunities for the protection of flood prone properties in unincorporated Story County.</p> <p>e. Distribute the "Know your Floodplain" curriculum to middle school and high school science/voc-ag teachers annually and provide opportunities to use the Ward 3-D Stormwater Simulation Model to engage with students and citizens.</p> <p>f. Develop Substantial Damage Management Plans (as part of the Community Rating System (CRS) Program).</p>		
2.15	Feedlot Outreach	Medium	Board of Supervisors Environmental Health	Yes
<p><i>April 2022 Update</i></p> <p><i>No changes</i></p>		<p>a. Establish policy and practices for County staff.</p> <p>b. Provide training to County staff who are in the field to recognize environmental issues associated with feedlots.</p> <p>c. Coordinate with other counties, cities, and other entities to create and implement strategy to lobby state legislature for improved role for Counties in feedlot regulation.</p>		
2.16	Establish Source Water Protection Plans	Low	Board of Supervisors Environmental Health	TBD
<p><i>April 2022 Update</i></p>		<p>Affected cities work with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to conduct site investigations and development protection plans.</p>		



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2.17	Wastewater Management Practices	Medium	Board of Supervisors Environmental Health	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. As appropriate, identify opportunities to partner with communities for required wastewater facility upgrades. b. Identify, and if available, provide additional resources for illicit discharge detection and elimination. c. Work with wastewater treatment operators within County to investigate options for developing a nutrient trading program. d. Identify and promote available financial assistance programs for property owners with failing/non-compliant private septic systems and establish a cost share program for failing/non-compliant private septic systems at the County level. 		
2.18	Update ACPF Data (to reflect implementation practices and planning)	High/Ongoing	Story County Conservation Board	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i>		<p><i>Action Step added April 2022</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Update existing practices data on mapping tools. b. Update existing conservation practices GIS layer on agricultural land. 		
3.1	Drainage Ditches	Ongoing	Drainage District Trustees	Yes
<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>Modify to an Ongoing Priority Item</i>		As projects come up, as applicable, and when the Drainage District Trustees request an engineering report, analyze all drainage ditch maintenance and improvement needs for water quality practices.		
3.2	Story County Infrastructure	High	Board of Supervisors	Yes (on a case-by-case basis)
<i>April 2022 Update</i> <i>No changes</i>		Ensure capital projects have a positive or neutral effect on water quality.		



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Organization	Effort
City of Ames	Stormwater, Ambient Monitoring, Outreach
Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Association	Outreach, Programmatic/Regulatory Best Practices
Iowa Corn Growers Association	Outreach, Agricultural Quality Monitoring, Watershed Planning
Iowa DNR	Wastewater Program, Ambient Monitoring – Lake and Stream, Watershed Planning, Floodplain Management/Mapping
Iowa Farm Bureau	Agricultural practices, Outreach
Iowa Flood Center	Mapping, Monitoring
Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management	Outreach, Programmatic/Regulatory Best Practices
Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management	Outreach, Programmatic/Regulatory Best Practices
Iowa Hygienic Lab	Monitoring
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Land protection
Iowa Prairie Network	Land Protection
Iowa Rivers Revival	Outreach, Programmatic/Regulatory Best Practices
Iowa Rural Water Association	Outreach, Source Water Protection Planning
Iowa Soybean Association	Outreach, Agricultural Quality Monitoring, Watershed Planning
Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership	Outreach



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Organization	Effort
Iowa Water Center	Outreach
ISU Agriculture and Bioscience Engineering	Ambient Testing
ISU Extension	Outreach
ISU Learning Farms	Outreach
ISU UTurn	TELC Quality Monitoring
Izaak Walton League	Monitoring, Outreach
Pheasants Forever	Outreach
Practical Farmers of Iowa	Agricultural practices, Outreach
Prairie Rivers of Iowa	Outreach, Agricultural Practices
Silver Jackets	Outreach, Programmatic/Regulatory Best Practices
Ioway Creek Watershed Coalition	Ambient Monitoring
Ioway Creek Watershed Management Association	Programmatic/Regulatory Best Practices
Story County Soil and Water Conservation District	Agricultural Practices, Outreach, Programmatic/Regulatory Best Practices
Trees Forever	Outreach, Agricultural Practices
USDA Farm Service Agency	Agricultural Practices, Outreach, Programmatic/Regulatory Best Practices
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service	Agricultural Practices, Outreach
USGS – Iowa Water Science Center	Monitoring, Outreach

